

THE GUNFIGHTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 14



366TH FIGHTER WING, MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO

Family, friends, coworkers honor fallen Gunfighter

BY MASTER SGT.
BRIAN S. ORBAN
GUNFIGHTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Family, friends, co-workers and even complete strangers came together Wednesday morning to honor an Airman from the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron who died in combat operations March 29 while serving in Iraq.

Tech. Sgt. Walter Moss, an explosive ordnance disposal

technician, was killed in an explosion while conducting safing operations near Baghdad. Safing operations involve destroying or rendering explosive devices otherwise inoperable.

Those who knew Sergeant Moss best praised his courage and dedication to duty, which often meant standing in harm's way so others could live.

"[Sergeant Moss] and other EOD specialists saved many innocent lives by using their God-given skills," said Col. Charles

Shugg, 366th Fighter Wing commander. "Because of their efforts, people in distant lands who previously had no hope or freedom and lived in constant fear of evil regimes have tasted freedom. People who have never had the opportunity ... to express their free will now have that opportunity."

"Walter Moss is a hero to all of us," said Lt. Col. Benjamin Wham, 366th CES commander. "Not just for his sacrifice that we honor today, but also for the way that he lived his

life on a daily basis."

"He mentored young Airmen, supporting and pushing them as they developed their skills in one of the Air Forces most difficult career fields," said Colonel Shugg. "He struck an amazing balance between duty and family that we would all do well to emulate. Truly, Walt Moss was an Airman's Airman."

"Tech. Sgt. Walter Moss gave his today so we could have our tomorrows," added Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Victor Toney, the

base's senior chaplain.

Sergeant Moss, a 16-year Air Force veteran, deployed to Sather Air Base, Iraq, in early January in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his time in Iraq, the sergeant and fellow EOD specialists at Sather AB responded to more than 200 calls in the Baghdad vicinity without incident. Every successful call meant Sergeant Moss potentially saved a life.

Please see HONOR, Page 4



GUNFIGHTERS HELD A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TECH. SGT. WALTER MOSS JR., 366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL, WEDNESDAY MORNING

AAFES dividends benefit Gunfighters' programs

BY LYNN MASTERS
ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

The value the Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers the military community extends far beyond its ability to provide quality merchandise and consumer services. With the help of AAFES dividends, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs and Air Force Services have completed hundreds of community enhancement projects at Army and Air Force installations around the world.

"AAFES supports the mission of the services' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs to improve the troops' quality of life and the well-being of the overall military community," said Diane Pagel, Gunfighter base exchange general manager. "These contributions to the U.S. Armed Forces and their families make AAFES a major non-pay benefit to customers."

Purchases made by Gunfighters at the BX, Shoppette/Class 6, Burger King and other AAFES activities at Mountain Home Air Force Base in 2005 generated more than \$19.9 million in sales. AAFES' total Mountain Home AFB dividend of \$407,263 is critical to Air Force Service's ability to enhance local MWR programs such as The Gunfighters Club, the fitness center and Strike Dam Marina. Historically, roughly 67 percent of AAFES earnings are paid to MWR programs. Mountain Home's dividend shows a \$4,000 increase from the previous year.

"Every time troops shop at the exchange, they provide support to MWR programs, facilities and non-appropriated fund construction projects," said Ms. Pagel.

In the past 10 years, more than \$2 billion has been contributed by AAFES to the Army and Air Force to spend on quality of life improvements for Soldiers, Airmen and their families, including libraries, sports programs, swimming pools, youth activities, tickets and tour services, hobby shops, music programs, outdoor facilities and unit functions.

Troops are not the only ones who can enhance the annual dividend. AAFES provides MWR services. Civilians (or non-authorized exchange customers) can also contribute by purchasing "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates or "Help Our Troops Call Home" phone cards. Both programs allow anyone to make a direct contribution to the morale of troops by sending a gift certificate or phone card that can be used in any AAFES retail or phone center operation in the world including those in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. While initial purchases made through these programs offer an immediate benefit to troops, the long-term advantage is that a portion of the funds used to purchase the phone card or gift certificate this year will go back to the military community next year. "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates and "Help Our Troops Call Home" phone cards are both available online at www.aafes.org.



GUNFIGHTERS HELP FORGE

FRIENDSHIPS WITH LOCAL VILLAGES



STAFF SGTS. MICHAEL TYBURSKI AND MICHAEL CHAMPION, BOTH ARE GUNFIGHTERS DEPLOYED TO THE 376TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING AT MANAS AIR BASE, KYRGYZSTAN, DEMONSTRATE DEVICES FOR LOWERING EMERGENCY RESPONDERS INTO TIGHT SPOTS TO MEMBERS OF KYRGYZSTAN'S MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY VISITING SATURDAY.

CAPT. JAMES BRESSENDORFF
376TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — With warm and milder weather, Spring has brought new opportunities for the Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, and local communities to strengthen friendly relations.

Throughout March, members of the wing leadership hosted base tours, arranged village visits and planned recreational activities with the local community. In return, they have been invited to visit and celebrate with the local Kyrgyzstan communities.

Emergency responders on base pulled out all the

stops to host officials and staff from the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Emergency for an annual tour and barbecue March 25. The two groups previously met when base emergency responders visited the ministry, said Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Johnson, 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron fire chief.

"It's important we take the opportunity to make these kinds of connections," said Sergeant Johnson. "We're very fortunate to be in a country where it's possible."

Each emergency response element of the ECES and the Expeditionary Medical Group set up static displays of equipment, including tools and protective clothing. After presentations of each element's capabilities, the group sat down together for a barbecue

prepared by the base fire department.

Col. Bill Baird, Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, and other wing leadership attended a festival in the nearby village of Jani-Jer March 21, as guests of the village mayor to help celebrate the Muslim New Year Nooruz.

The invitation came last month, after Colonel Baird arranged visits with the mayors of all the villages surrounding the base. Some villages had not seen an official from the base for several years, though security forces personnel on saber patrols kept the communication flowing between the villagers and base.

On March 23, Col. Randy Kee, 376th Air Expedi-

Please see DEPLOYED, Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Gunfighter stresses importance of face-to-face communication

I just want to speak to a human being.

Please?

Nope. Not happening. Not today. Instead, the computer-generated voice on the other end of the line kept droning on, spouting off my available options. Its perky disposition didn't make me

feel any happier and was, in fact, starting to honk me off.

My family and I were on vacation out of state ...

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CSAR becomes part of ACC

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — Air Combat Command took administrative control of select Air Force combat search and rescue assets from Air Force

Special Operations Command Monday as part of a realignment announced in February.

The transfer ensures the Air Force core competency ...

• Page 3 •



Teens, young adults get opportunity to see what Gunfighters do

About 15 teenagers and young adults with developmental disabilities got a unique opportunity to interact with Gunfighters March 28.

The 366th Security Forces Squadron military working dog section greeted members of Community Partnerships of Idaho with

open paws during their first-ever visit to base.

Doren, one of the star canines, captivated the group as he and his partner, Staff Sgt. Gregory Long, demonstrated some of the techniques they practice ...

• Page 4 •



'Month of Military Child' is celebrated throughout April

WASHINGTON — Recognizing that children of servicemembers, including those based at Mountain Home Air Force Base, often face challenges that other children do not, the nonprofit child development organization "Zero To Three" launched a special project geared toward military families ...

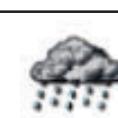
• Page 6 •

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday: Mostly Cloudy
High: 65 • Low 44



Saturday: Few Showers
High: 64 • Low 44



Sunday: Few Showers
High: 59 • Low 40



COMMANDER'S HOTLINE



COL. CHARLES SHUGG

This hotline is your direct line to me.

It's your opportunity to make Mountain Home Air Force Base a better place to live and work. I review every response to hotline questions, but functional experts prepare most responses.

If possible, you should first contact the organization responsible for the problem or function. Your first sergeants, commanders and agency chiefs want to help, so please let them try.

If you do not know how to proceed or if you have already tried your chain of command, then do not hesitate to contact the Hotline at 828-6262 or e-mail Commanders-Hotline@mountainhome.af.mil.

Not all Hotlines are published, but if you leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, I will make sure you get a reply.

COL. CHARLES SHUGG
366TH FIGHTER WING
COMMANDER

2005 AWARDS

As of this week

Air Force	13
ACC	53
12th Air Force	10

LAST DUI

366th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Days without a DUI:

10

AADD made 166 saves in March, and 488 so far this year

(Courtesy of AADD)

THE GUNFIGHTER



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Coverage: Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the public affairs office at 828-6800 or by sending an electronic message to pa.news@mountainhome.af.mil.

Classified Ads: Free classified advertisements of a noncommercial nature are published in "The Gunfighter" on a space-available basis. Free advertising is limited to Air Force people (active and retired), Department of Defense civilian employees and their family members. Ad forms are available in Bldg. 512. Deadline for free classified advertisements is 5 p.m. Monday.

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'To speak to a computer, please press 1 ...'

BY MASTER SGT.
BRIAN S. ORBAN
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I just want to speak to a human being.

Please?

Nope. Not happening. Not today. Instead, the computer-generated voice on the other end of the line kept droning on, spouting off my available options. Its perky disposition didn't make me feel any happier and was, in fact, starting to honk me off.

My family and I were on vacation out of state. We'd just returned from several years overseas and hadn't even signed in to our next base. Naturally, that's the time when someone (read: me) gets sick.

The nearest military clinic was

on the other side of the state, so that option was out. So I resigned myself to running the automated answering system labyrinth to find a civilian clinic that accepted my military health care plan. After going around in circles for more than 30 minutes, I was getting nowhere fast.

"For this option, please press 1, now," the computer chimed in for the hundredth time. "For that option, please press 2, now. To report a lost or stolen option, please press 3, now. To give up all hope of ever reaching the place you want, please press the pound key, now."

So which button do I push to speak to someone with a pulse?

As I continued to press buttons and transfer from one computer to another, I started to wonder if

it was the flu virus or the computer's constant need to say "please" that made me want to barf. On a whim, I pressed the zero button.

"Transferring to the operator. Please wait."

Ah ha! Now we're getting somewhere.

"We're sorry. All of our available operators are currently helping other clients. You're call is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received. Please wait ... forever."

Argh!!!

Eventually, I did manage to get that elusive appointment. However, it got me wondering if this whole exercise in frustration was actually necessary. In today's smaller, leaner Air Force, it's sometimes necessary to use auto-

mated voice mail to deal with the crush of calls some places get in a given day. However, just because an office has the capability, does it really need to use it?

Some bases took a stand on this issue. Responding to complaints from military folks, some Air Force agencies have set limits on the time customers have to deal with telephone answering systems. In at least one case, the policy stated that making customers deal with an automated recording for more than 30 seconds is considered "not cool."

Today's society is full of wondrous gadgets that are supposed to make our lives easier, improve efficiency and reduce costs. However, spinning your wheels for minutes on end to get an answer to a simple question isn't what some would call efficient.

After all, we just want to speak to a human being.

Here's another thing to consider. It's people, not computers that can fully understand someone's problem and immediately connect them to the right office for help. Computers don't care if you've been in limbo for 30 minutes wanting to speak to someone for help or answers. They only do what they're programmed to do.

There are still roughly 365,000 blue suiters in today's Air Force deployed all around the world in some of the roughest, most inhospitable places you can imagine (no, not North Dakota). Yet, despite our busy schedules, it just makes sense to turn off that computerized answering system now and then and see what happens.

After all, we just want to speak to a human being.

Please?

What is my sixth sense? I see Reese's Cups

BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN STIVES
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As I've grown older, I've matured in many ways. But perhaps the most important way is in development of my "Reese's Radar."

You know what that is, right? If you don't, chances are good you're younger and lighter than me, because every adult in America who is at least 30 years old and more than 190 pounds has a well-developed Reese's Radar. Honest. I asked all of them.

For those young bucks out there who don't know what it is, here's a quick lesson. Reese's Radar is kind of like a sixth sense. You've seen the movie "The Sixth Sense," right? Remember when the kid gets that terrified look on his face and

says, "I see dead people?" Well, that's kind of how this radar works, except it's the ability to see Reese's peanut butter candy all the time.

For example, consider the following scenario recorded exactly as it happened a few months ago after I arrived here for my new assignment and met my new co-workers for the first time:

New supervisor: "Hello. Welcome to Mountain Home. I'm Staff Sgt. Koskovich, and I'll be your supervisor here."

Me: "Hi, I'm Brian. Nice to finally meet you. There's a snack bar down the hall with Reese's Cups in it, isn't there?"

Sometimes I think it's great to know where Reese's are at all times, but at other times it's a real burden.

It drives my wife crazy when we're riding down the road, and all of the sud-

den I say, "There are 31 Reese's candy bars in that store over there. Actually, make that 30, 'cause someone just ate one. We'd better stop and get some before they run out."

She looks at me like I'm crazy and tells me to be quiet and keep driving. Sometimes I think she really doesn't appreciate how hard I've had to work at developing this uncanny ability to keep track of every Reese's candy bar on the planet.

It took a lot of effort in my late 20s to catch up with my peers and become proficient in operating my Reese's Radar. But that's the way I've had to work at nearly everything in my life – nothing seems to come easy for me. That may have something to do with the fact that my brain is roughly the same size, shape and density of a peanut butter cup.

But back to my point. Maybe some of

you can relate when I say nothing in life (at least nothing that involves using my brain) has come easy for me. Some of us have to work hard to keep up with our peers. Doesn't that make you angry sometimes? Don't you just want to kick those people who are good at everything? Those to whom everything comes naturally?

If you answered yes, I can relate. But don't resort to violence. If you're like me, and toiling endlessly to excel in your responsibilities, take heart in my success at developing my Reese's Radar. There really is hope for the weary, light at the end of the tunnel and a pot of chocolate and peanut butter at the end of every rainbow.

While you ponder those deep thoughts, I think I'll slip away for now, 'cause my sixth sense just kicked in. I see Reese's.

Every Airman needs a good 'wingman' to help them

BY MAJ. TOM MEANS
39TH OPERATIONS SQUADRON

Several months ago, while returning from a stateside TDY, I was waiting in the domestic terminal of the Istanbul Airport when I saw something unusual. Among the busy crowd was a young Airman who obviously was new to Turkey and its environment.

How did I know this from 50 yards? If the clean shave and short haircut didn't give it away, the well-pressed service uniform with a matching Air Force embroidered

garment bag did. The fledgling rank on his shoulder meant he'd probably just graduated tech school and was a first-term Airman assigned overseas.

Although he stood tall and wore his uniform proudly it was apparent he had nothing more inconspicuous to change into. So, because of the shortcomings of his sponsor, he'd have to wait for a newcomer's briefings to get the force protection briefings that could have prevented this unnecessary risk.

Some would argue he had no "wingman" that day. I contest he

needed something more. In the fighter business, a wingman is an inexperienced pilot who struggles with the complex tasks and tactics of combat aviation. The brand new wingman can usually keep other aircraft in sight, provide visual mutual support and avoid hitting the ground while maneuvering in three dimensions.

Mistakes are expected and corrected through extra instruction, study and sometimes public embarrassment in front of his peers. It's the flight lead who's responsible for sound judgment, exemplary discipline, timely instruction and overall safe conduct of the flight and its multimillion-dollar assets.

The wingman program is based on the tenet that any "wingman" can provide mutual support and theoretically mitigate a bad situation. While this may be true, we sometimes overlook the opportunities to call on our experiences and maturity to lead when necessary.

Leadership in this case is going the extra mile, calling on the courage to intervene, and tell a complete stranger their behavior is unacceptable and may get themselves hurt or

in trouble.

Although they may have a wingman meeting the intent, their lack of experience in the local area may buy them an entry into the police blotter or worse. It's you, the resident expert, or for a better term the flight lead, who needs to watch out for them. Our Airman at the Istanbul airport needed someone like this.

We can't afford a preventable accident due to inaction when we see a bad situation developing. Be a good flight lead, get engaged, and take care of your fellow Airmen.

GOODFELLOW NCO ACADEMY CLASS 06-3



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. THERESA MEYER

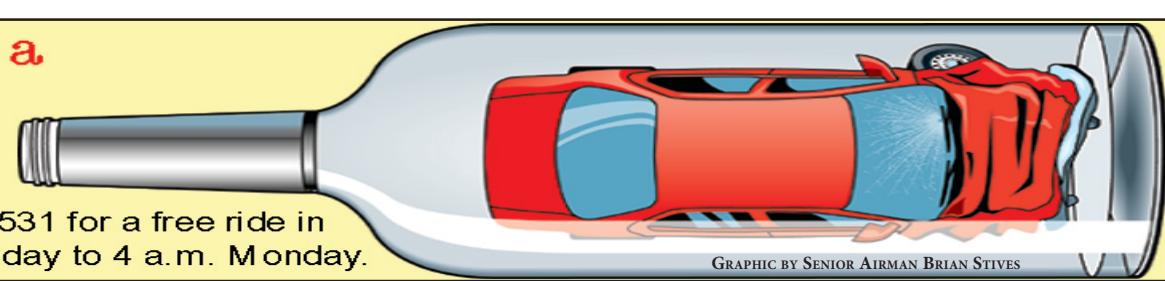
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GUNFIGHTERS ON THEIR GRADUATION FROM THE GOODFELLOW NCO ACADEMY THURSDAY.

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: TECH. SGTS. DAVID ALKIRE JR., 366TH SFS; MATTHEW JUNGLAS, 726TH ACS; JAMES LAMONT, 366TH CMS; ROBBIN ANDREWS, 726TH ACS; GALEN LEON, 726TH ACS; STEVEN BARNES, 366TH AMXS; ANDREAS ELIASEN, 366TH OSS.

SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: TECH. SGTS. WILLIAM JENKINS, 366TH EMS; STUART LINK, 366TH LRS; DAVID CHARBONNEAU, 391ST FS; ROBERT BROWN, 366TH CES; EDWARD WASKOSKY, 366TH AMXS; NEIL BARKER, 366TH AMXS; SCOTT KISH, 366TH LRS; ROBERT COLLUPY, 366TH ADS; AND COREY TWINNEMEIR, 366TH EMS.

Drink and drive, and you'll get a crash course in criminal law.

Make the right choice. If you drink, don't drive. Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 599-3922 or 599-3923 for a free ride home in Mtn. Home or 371-6531 for a free ride in Boise. AADD volunteers are available from 5 p.m. Friday to 4 a.m. Monday.



GRAPHIC BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN STIVES

C-5 crash doesn't diminish historian's view of aircraft

BY MASTER SGT.
ORVILLE F. DESJARLAIS JR.
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

SAN ANTONIO – The C-5 Galaxy crash at Dover Air Force Base, Del., April 3 placed the aging aircraft in the spotlight once again.

With no deaths reported, military officials are cleaning the crash site and convening a board of officers to investigate the cause of the accident.

But the crash does not tarnish John Leland's image of the C-5 Galaxy. He places the aircraft in such high regard he has co-written

a book about the Air Force's largest cargo aircraft, "The Chronological History of the C-5 Galaxy."

"Since this was just its sixth crash in its history, that tells me it has had a good, solid record of performance over the years," said the historian who works at the Air Mobility Command Office of History at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Mr. Leland will include the recent crash in the C-5's chronological history, which he updates religiously.

Biggest plane in the world

The C-5's history dates back to March 2, 1968, when President

Lyndon B. Johnson attended the rollout and christening ceremony. At that time, it was the largest plane in the world.

"The aircraft symbolized the size, power, might and majesty of the United States Air Force," Mr. Leland said.

The Galaxy has 12 internal wing tanks with a total capacity of 51,150 gallons of fuel – enough to fill six-and-a-half regular-size railroad tank cars. At nearly a football field long and nearly six stories high, it can carry tanks and buses. With aerial refueling, the aircraft's range is limited only by crew endurance.

In 1982, the Antonov 124, a Soviet air transport, set a record for the largest mass ever lifted by an airplane, snatching away the C-5's title.

The C-5s that could

Since its inception, the C-5 has helped during times of war – Vietnam, Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2001, the C-5 furnished about 50 percent of Air Mobility Command's organic strategic airlift capability. During OEF, the C-5 flew 33 percent of the cargo missions, hauled 46 percent of the total cargo and carried 40 percent of all passengers airlifted by AMC. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, it flew about 23 percent of the missions and delivered about 48 percent of the cargo, moving more cargo per mission than the C-17 Globemaster III and the C-141B Starlifter.

It was also invaluable during times of peace, especially during humanitarian missions.

"The Air Mobility Command developed the C-5's humanitarian mission a number of years ago, and humanitarian airlift is AMC's gift to the world," Mr. Leland said.

Old but not forgotten

Although the C-5 Galaxy is getting old, it can still carry twice the amount of its newest cargo carrier sibling, the C-17.

"I like to think of the C-5 as augmenting the C-17," Mr. Leland said.

With the retiring of the C-141, which started in 2002 and ended this year, the C-5 and C-17 must



A FIREFIGHTER HOSES DOWN THE CRASH SITE OF A C-5 GALAXY. THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED MONDAY MORNING AT DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DEL., JUST SOUTH OF THE BASE FLIGHTLINE.

now carry the millions of tons per year generated by Air Force missions round the world.

C-5 makeover

Based on a study showing 80 percent of the C-5 service life remaining, AMC began to modernize the C-5. The C-5 Avionics Modernization Program began in 1998 and includes upgrading avionics to comply with air traffic control compliance, improving navigation and safety equipment and installing a new autopilot system.

Another part of the makeover includes new engines, auxiliary power units and other improvements.

"The aircraft has been deemed structurally sound until the year 2040, thus the 're-engining' program," Mr. Leland said.

In his book, he wrote, "The C-5 has already accomplished what no other air transport has

ever achieved, including the new, more reliable C-17."

Not wanting to speculate on the cause of yesterday's crash, Mr. Leland said the crash demonstrated the superior training by the airmen.

"The C-5 flew an awful lot of missions, and I could tell they were superbly trained because there were no critical injuries," he said.

Other incidents that destroyed C-5s:

May 25, 1970 – Burned aircraft at Palmdale, Calif., during a flight test.

Oct. 17, 1970 – Also burned during a flight test, this time at Marietta, Ga.

Sept. 27, 1974 – Crashed at Clinton Municipal Airport, Okla.

April 5, 1975 – Crashed in Saigon, Vietnam, during Operation Babylift.

Aug. 29, 1990 – Crashed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, during Operation Desert Storm.



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE ON THE SCENE OF A C-5 GALAXY CRASH WEDNESDAY AT DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DEL. ALL 17 AIRMEN ABOARD THE PLANE SURVIVED THE CRASH. THE LAST C-5 CRASH WAS AUG. 28, 1990, DURING OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. A C-5 CRASHED AFTER TAKEOFF FROM RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY, KILLING 13 OF THE 17 PEOPLE ON BOARD.

ACC takes combat search, rescue assets under wing

AIR COMBAT COMMAND
NEWS SERVICE

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – Air Combat Command took administrative control of select Air Force combat search and rescue assets from Air Force Special Operations Command Monday as part of a realignment announced in February.

The transfer ensures the Air Force core competency of combat search and rescue, or CSAR, is directly linked to the combat air forces and the people they support. This consolidates

the management of limited Air Force resources and provides a clearer presentation of force in theater. Under ACC, CSAR assets can mobilize faster during a national crisis, integrated into combat training and tasked to support all air and space expeditionary force rotations, ACC officials said.

Moving the CSAR mission under ACC will be completely transparent to the warfighter. They will continue, as before, to gain CSAR capability from the owning major command.

The transfer affects most active-duty operational

HC-130s, HH-60 Pave Hawks and most combat rescue officers and pararescuemen, as well as the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Units transferred from AFSC to ACC will not relocate.

In addition, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units remain administratively controlled by Air Force Reserve Command and their respective states, but will be gained by ACC or Pacific Air Forces when fully mobilized.

Active-duty units affected by the transfer are

the 347th Rescue Wing at Moody AFB, Ga., and all subordinate units; the 563rd Rescue Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and all subordinate units; the HH-60G Combined Test Force at Nellis AFB, Nev.; and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley AFB, Va.

Air Force Reserve Command units affected are the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick AFB, Fla., and the 943rd Rescue Group at Davis-Monthan, Ariz., and its subordinate squadron, the 304th Rescue Squadron at Portland International Airport, Ore.

Affected Air National Guard units are the 106th Rescue Wing at Gabreski Field, N.Y., and the 129th RQW at Moffett Field, Calif.

The transfer will not affect CSAR assets and people assigned to PACAF and U.S. Air Forces Europe.

Further actions associated with the transfer, including a routine site visit and funding actions, will occur over the next few months. ACC, with assistance from AFSC, will complete the programmatic actions associated with the transfer by October.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS VERONICA PIERCE
PARARESCUEMEN FROM THE 306TH AND 48TH RESCUE SQUADRONS FAST-ROPE FROM AN HH-60G PAVE HAWK HELICOPTER TO RETRIEVE "WOUNDED HOSTAGES" DURING A COMBINED TRAINING EXERCISE AT DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZ.

Ads

Base opens arms to teens, young adults

STORY AND PHOTO
BY STAFF SGT. CHAWNTAIN SLOAN
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

About 15 teenagers and young adults with developmental disabilities got a unique opportunity to interact with Gunfighters March 28.

The 366th Security Forces Squadron military working dog section greeted members of Community Partnerships of Idaho with open paws during their first-ever visit to base.

Doren, one of the star canines, captivated the group as he and his partner, Staff Sgt. Gregory Long, demonstrated some of the techniques they practice during their daily training sessions.

"As the narrator, I enjoyed hearing everyone oh and ah or laugh as they watched Doren do his stuff," said Tech. Sgt. Christine Paille, 366th SFS military working dog section kennel master. "This shows us – and the dog – that we have captured their attention and are informative and entertaining."

After a special performance that was hard to beat, the group headed to the flightline where they got a front row seat in the middle of all the action.

While jet after jet took off and landed, some of the wing's best and Air Force's finest maintainers and pilots gave the group an up-close and personal look at the F-15C and E models as well as the munitions they carry.

"The most important thing we can do as

Airmen is earn the support and trust of our community, and showing them what we do on a daily basis is the best way to accomplish this," said 1st Lt. Brian Webb, 390th Fighter Squadron pilot.

"In comparison to other community tours, this was the best we have had," said Frona Erickson, a developmental specialist assistant with Community Partnerships of Idaho. "Many of them had never seen a jet up-close let alone see and hear one take off. The (dog demonstration) was also



SENIOR AIRMAN MOSES VICTORIA, 366TH MAINTENANCE OPERATION SQUADRON, SHOWS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS OF IDAHO THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUNITIONS GUNFIGHTERS USE WHEN THEY DEPLOY.

excellent. Everyone liked it very much, especially when the dog attacked the officer's arm."

Homestead Air Reserve Base goes Hollywood

BY MASTER SGT. RAY SARRACINO
482ND FIGHTER WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. – Hundreds of cast, crew and extras from a proposed WB Network series converged here for a marathon day of filming March 27.

They came here to work on the pilot episode of "Mercy Reef," a science-fiction themed program that could appear on the network as early as this fall, according to Lisa Lewis, vice president of television production at Warner Brothers.

Vehicles began arriving at 5 a.m. to set up equipment and prepare for the day's shoot at "Tempest Key Joint Training Base," the fictional name of the military base. For security reasons, the production team's vehicles and people were under military escort from the moment they arrived until they departed the base about 20 hours later.

Considering the number of visitors and the amount of time they were on base, this was a Herculean task that was successfully accomplished by good teamwork and coor-



A STAFF SERGEANT TEACHES TWO ACTORS FROM THE "MERCY REEF" TELEVISION PILOT THE PROPER WAY TO SALUTE BEFORE A SCENE SHOT AT THE FRONT GATE OF HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, FLA. MARCH 27.

dination among Homestead ARB's units, said Lt. Col. Tom Davis, 482nd Fighter Wing chief of public affairs.

Another aspect of this shoot involved the "extras," people seen in the background of practically every television show or movie. Most of the extras for this shoot were military members who volunteered to be in the show. Staff Sgt. Yami Baker of the 482nd FW's military personnel

flight was one of those volunteers.

In one scene, viewers can catch a glimpse of about 20 Airmen from the 482nd Fighter Wing marching in formation on the flightline. Although not something frequently seen on the flightline, the reservists had plenty of time to get it right in the course of marching back and forth in front of the camera for more than an hour.

One thing about the film industry

is similar to the military, there is a lot of "hurry up and wait." But it was worthwhile, Sergeant Baker said.

"Once they started filming and the cameras were on and all the commotion started, it was really exciting," she said. "The director we had was awesome. His name was Oscar, and he was full of energy. He was really into his job and made it exciting to be there. It was also really neat meeting some of the actors. Everyone there was so down to earth and they were just wonderful."

During the course of the filming, some of the extras endured several costume changes that included promotions, demotions and even a change of service. One Air Force staff sergeant was promoted to captain just for his walk across the street in a different scene.

The shoot presented a number of logistical problems that were conquered with relative ease by smart planning on the part of the production company and base people.

One of these involved moving tractor-trailers from the front gate to the flightline, around several turns and physical barriers before they arrived at their destination. Airmen

in the 482nd Security Force Squadron accomplished the job of arranging barriers to accommodate the increase in vehicular traffic, while still handling the typical volume of vehicles during the morning rush hour.

The most unique piece of equipment to enter the base were three "condor" self-propelled cranes.

Capable of hoisting their baskets more than 90 feet in the air, these slow-moving vehicles were instrumental for filming some interesting scenes, including two man-made thunderstorms. They were created by elevating an elaborate network of pipes high above the "stage" and directing light into the rain shower to create the visual effect.

The practically self-contained operation included cast, wardrobe and makeup trailers, as well as caterers who fed several hundred people throughout the day. "We will not know if the show is picked up for a series until mid-May," Ms. Lewis said. "Normally we would air in late September, but we won't have a firm air date until July."

NEWSLINE

Tax office open

The Gunfighter tax office will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday for Gunfighters still needing to file their taxes.

For more information, call 828-4997.

Self defense classes

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office is sponsoring Risk Reduction Self-Defense classes for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Classes are available from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the base fitness center. These classes are free and open to anyone with a DoD identification card.

To sign up, call 828-6622. The classes are limited to 20 students.

Groundbreaking on new Base Ops building

A ground breaking ceremony for the new Base Operations/Weather/RAPCON facility will be April 14 at 11 a.m. at Building 262. The event commemorates the start of construction for the new 19,000 square foot replacement of the current building. Included in the project is the construction of a new airfield lighting vault and the demolition of buildings 262, 264 and 2601.

Flowers for housing occupants

The housing office will offer flower vouchers for base housing residents. The vouchers are for \$10 worth of flowers or shrubs for your yard from Green's Nursery of Mountain Home. One certificate per household will be issued on a first come-first serve basis starting April 17. The certificates will be available at the self help store, which is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If all of the certificates are not handed out by May 8, there will be a second offering.

Base firing ranges

The Mountain Home Air Force Base ranges are off limits to all personnel not possessing written official permission. The locations of the ranges are as follows: On-base Building 1388, and off-base Building 1902 at the junction of Air Base Road and Grandview Highway. Trespassing is not only illegal but dangerous because of gunfire. Ranges are posted and patrolled by 366th Security Forces Squadron personnel.

For more information, call the 366th SFS Combat Arms Office at 828-4480.

Smooth PCS move

Members expecting to receive orders of a permanent change of station should know the peak moving season is approaching. To help alleviate some of the stress that may arise during this busy time, make an appointment with the travel management office as soon as the orders are received; this allows adequate time for the booking section to get a carrier arranged. The traffic management office encourages members to be proactive and totally involved in their move process. General information on moving household goods and helpful topics for getting ready are available on the Air Force Move Web site home page at <http://afmove.hq.af.mil> or local TMO Web site page at <http://muo-fs366lsr004/LGRT/LGRT.htm>.

School bus stop safety

Be aware of the school bus stop on Airbase Road just past the train tracks while driving to Mountain Home. As a reminder, drivers are required to stop when the school bus red lights are flashing; signifying children are getting on or off the bus. On a four-lane highway, only traffic going in the same direction as the bus must stop. Children are picked up around 6:55 a.m. and dropped off between 4:25 and 4:35 p.m. depending on the weather conditions.

SHARING PROMOTION JOYS



MASTER SGT. ROBERT WOODIN, 366TH COMMUNICATION SQUADRON WHO IS DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, HAS HIS PROMOTION CEREMONY BROADCAST OVER THE VIDEO TELECONFERENCE WHILE HIS WIFE, LISA (CENTER), SON, STORM, AND DAUGHTER, KAYLA WATCH IN A CONFERENCE ROOM HERE.

DEPLOYED

Continued from Page 1

beginning of the day. "We want to strengthen our partnership and hope to continue this tradition for many years."

"Having such friendly relations with the local population puts Manas Air Base in a unique position for this area of responsibility," said Maj. Mark Anuramo, 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander. "It's an extremely good thing when we have a chance to forge real relationships with people, and share who we are as Americans."

"Educating, befriending and interacting with the people and leaders of Kyrgyzstan are an important aspect of the 376th AEW mission," said Colonel Kee. "The ultimate objective of our military operations here is to allow peaceful relations between all nations, and our relationship with the host nation here is part of that."

During the base tour, Airmen joined Kyrgyzstan military members and airport employees for a sports day on the soccer field outside the Manas International Airport entrance gate.

"We are glad to support our American friends," said Mamyray Nadybek, secretary of security issues for Ministry of Emergency, said to participants who gathered at the

HONOR

Continued from Page 1

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Schmidt, 366th CES EOD superintendent, remembered a friend who always had a smile and was willing to share his casual, thought-provoking ideas with co-workers and supervisors. His determination to overcome huge challenges, including a knee injury that threatened to sideline his ability to deploy, inspired everyone he met.

"He did so much every day without ever boasting or bragging," Sergeant Schmidt added. "He was a true leader, a friend, a super dad and husband, and will be missed by many."

The sergeant was a person who loved challenges on the job and at home, savored

the opportunity to solve problems and, "made the difficult seem effortless," added Master Sgt. Michael Bernard, 366th CES EOD flight chief.

During the memorial service at Sather AB, a handwritten message by Master Sgt. J.T. Thrower, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight, highlighted the challenge all EOD Airmen face.

"People who have never taken that long and lonely walk down to safe an [improvised explosive device] or a roadside bomb will never come to fathom how it feels," Sergeant Thrower wrote. "[Sergeant Moss] was willing to take that long and lonely walk so others will continue to live."

(Master Sgt. Will Ackerman, 447th Air Expeditionary Group contributed to this report.)

Child development organization aids military children, families

'Month of the Military Child' celebrates military young ones, raises awareness about their unique situation

BY STEVEN DONALD SMITH
AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – Recognizing that children of servicemembers, including those based at Mountain Home Air Force Base, often face challenges that

other children do not, the non-profit child development organization "Zero To Three" launched a special project geared specifically toward military families.

"Supporting military children is an essential element of supporting military families in general," said Dorinda Williams, a Zero To Three training and consultation specialist. "Zero To Three recognizes military parents often face extreme and emotionally draining circumstances. We try to provide support through information and resources that translate into increased capacity to meet the emotional needs of babies and toddlers."

April is the "Month of the Military Child," which celebrates military young ones and raises aware-

ness about their unique situation. Zero To Three works toward these ends all year long by supporting the healthy development and well-being of military children by educating their parents on child-rearing techniques.

"We are a national, multidisciplinary organization that advances our mission by informing, educating and supporting adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers," Ms. Williams said.

Zero To Three concentrates on critical issues affecting young children and their families, including early language and literacy development and the impact of culture on early childhood development. The organization is adept at translating what is known from the science of early childhood development into

practical tools and resources for professionals, programs, parents and policymakers, Ms. Williams said.

Over the past several years, Zero To Three has become increasingly involved with issues affecting military children. For instance, the group established a military projects division specifically aimed at the needs of babies and toddlers of military families.

One of the division's projects is "Operation Parenting Edge," a partnership of the Marine Corps and the federal Early Head Start program. This venture is a two-year training and consultation pilot project that supports Early Head Start staff by increasing sensitivity to how babies and toddlers may be impacted by military-specific

stresses, Ms. Williams said.

The organization provides training through on-site visits, special meetings, and teleconferences.

"This project stems from the recognition that, with current world events ... military families and resources available to them may be increasingly strained," she said. "It is our hope that this project will serve as a model of how the military can collaborate with civilian resources to further expand support to families."

In addition, Zero To Three hosted a Defense Department summit in Washington, D.C., in November. The summit brought together professionals supporting military families from around the world. The overall intent of the summit was to promote the inter-

ests and needs of babies and toddlers through specialized trainings and workshops, Ms. Williams said.

Zero To Three also currently is developing a media campaign in response to the needs of military installations particularly effected by repeated and extended deployments. The campaign "will assist caregivers in recognizing how babies and toddlers may be affected by military separations and relocations, and offer ways to support their young children, as well as themselves, during times of military stress," she said.

The organization's Web site offers extensive information for military families. It features articles by military professionals and parents on topics unique to the military community.

Ads

DoD program keeps employers, reservists on track

BY ELAINE WILSON
FORT SAM HOUSTON PUBLIC
INFORMATION OFFICE

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — A Department of Defense program is easing the transition from business suit to battle dress uniform and back again for Reserve and Guard members serving throughout the world.

The national committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, is a nationwide network of nearly 4,200 volunteers who facilitate communication between reservists and their civilian employers.

"We keep reservists and their civilian employers on the same sheet of music when it comes to employment of military members," said Findley Brewster, Texas ESGR Area 4 chairman. "If the communication is there, then there is less likelihood of misunderstandings or issues when it comes to employment issues."

The "issues" that can arise are primarily tied into reservists' rights, such as re-employment after a deployment or benefit retention during an absence. Most answers already exist and are spelled out in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA.

The key components of the federal law include:

- Employers must grant leave to Guard and Reserve employees for military activation.
- Employers must promptly re-employ Guard and Reserve employees upon satisfactory completion of military service.

Guard and Reserve employees may not be required to use personal leave or vacation for military service. The organization takes a proactive approach to its information mission with two outreach programs — one directed at military members and the other at their civilian employers.

For the military outreach, ESGR

volunteers are assigned to Reserve units, of which there are more than 200 in San Antonio alone, Mr. Brewster said.

"The volunteers physically go to the units and give briefings and are there to answer questions and support," Mr. Brewster said. "They usually visit pre- and post-deployment to ease the transition from civilian to military and back again."

Their briefings are aimed at keeping reservists informed about their rights and responsibilities. For example, it is their responsibility to let their employers know about an upcoming deployment or drill as far in advance as possible, said Caryl Hill, ESGR state employee outreach chair. Also, employees should talk to their employer about what they learn and accomplish during their absence so bosses don't get the impression that military duty is a vacation from work.

"Communication is key," Ms. Hill said. "A healthy relationship between

reservist and employer minimizes problems with military-related activities."

Program volunteers not only inform reservists about their rights and responsibilities, but also the employer through the employer outreach program.

"A lot of employers don't have any idea of how to support their reservist-employees other than not to fire them," Mr. Brewster said.

As with the military outreach, the employer outreach comprises a network of volunteers, but these volunteers visit employers to help them understand USERRA and the needs of their employees.

"Volunteers can train the top leaders of a company or managers and front-line supervisors," Ms. Hill said, adding support starts with the employee's direct supervisor.

"Some are not supportive, so our training is aimed at educating so the support is there when needed," Ms. Hill said. The program also provides

"highly trained volunteers who are able to review a company's human resources regulations to ensure they are in line with USERRA."

Along with one-on-one briefings, ESGR volunteers can also organize civilian employer orientations, which offer civilian employers a hands-on approach to understanding their reservists.

The orientations give employers a taste of military life "so they can see for themselves the importance of their employee's mission," Ms. Hill said.

Civilian employer orientations can range from a simple visit to a military installation to a ride on a Navy ship.

"Last December, we worked with a unit at Lackland Air Force Base (Texas) and took 60 civilian employers to Fort Hood (Texas) on a C-5 (Galaxy)," Ms. Hill said.

The employers spent the day at the Army post eating Army "chow" and firing guns in simulators.

"The experience was great; it gave them a much different look

at what their employees go through," Ms. Hill said.

The personal experience fuels support as the employer is a witness to the importance of their employee's military mission, Ms. Hill said.

Program volunteers encourage employers to express support through a written "statement of support," a document that restates USERRA's key points and is a way for employers to formally recognize the National Guard and Reserve as "essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities."

Through employer and military outreaches, ESGR is able to garner continued support for Guard and Reserve members throughout the world, Brewster said.

For more information about ESGR or to arrange an outreach briefing, visit <http://www.esgr.org>. ESGR also needs volunteers to support its various programs; for more information, call (800) 336-4590.

Ads